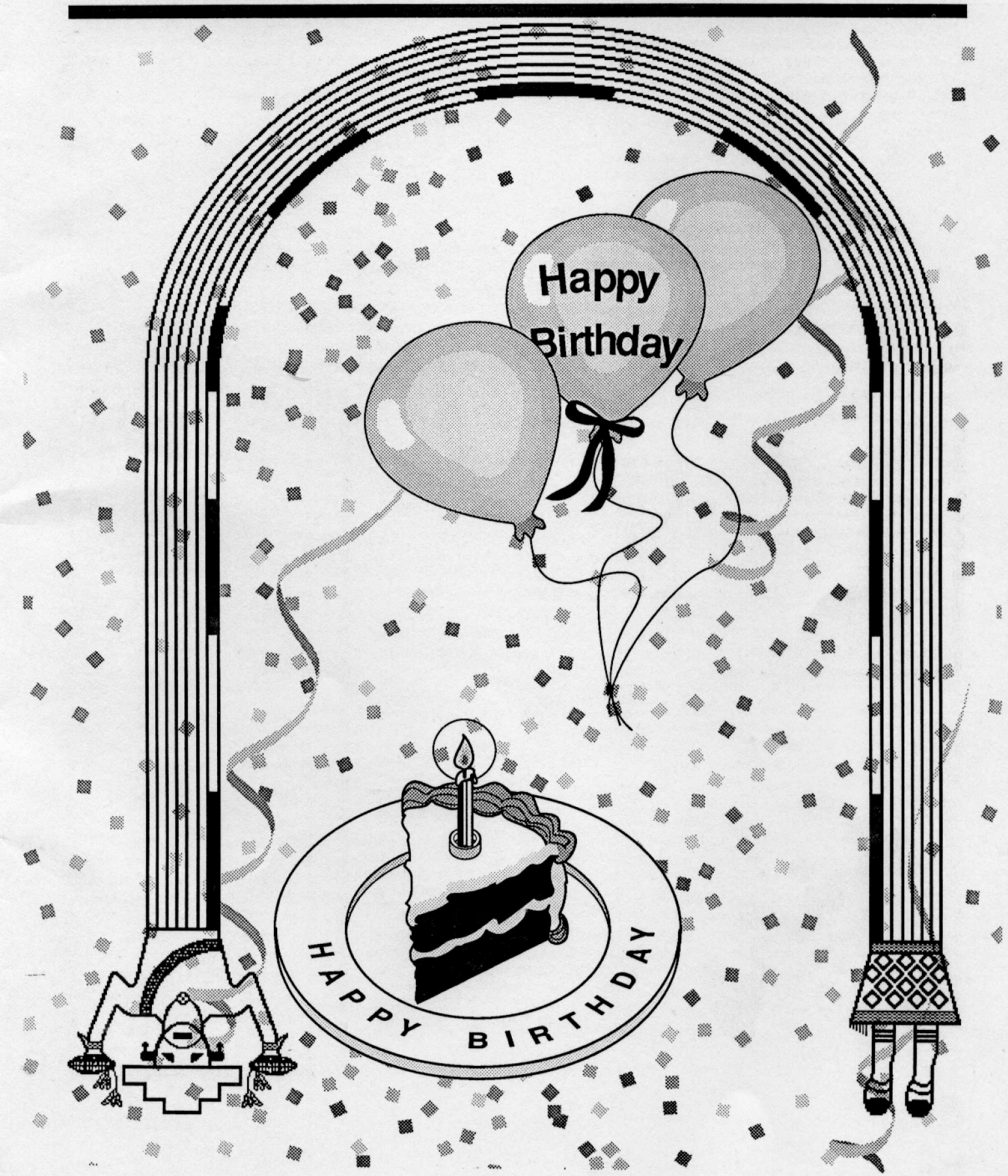
Apple Slices

November 1990

A bi-monthly Newsletter from Apple2000 in its Anniversary Year 1980-1990 Issue 20



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Apple2000 are Founder Members and Wholehearted Supporters of the **Apple User Group Council**

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Apple2000 supports users of all the Apple computers. The **ITT 2020, I, II, II+, //e, //c, //c+, IIgs, IIgs+, ///, Lisa, XL, Mac 128, Mac 512, MacPlus, SE, SE/30, Mac II, IIcx, IIci, IIsi IIx, IIfx, LC, Macintosh Classic** and **Portable** Contributions and articles for the Apple2000 magazine oe Apple Slices are always welcome. We can handle any disk size or format.
Please send to PO Box 3, Liverpool, L21 8PY.

There are a number of ways to contact Apple2000

If you wish to order goods or services from Apple2000, or if you just wish to leave us a message, please call Irene on 051-928-4142 (Ansafone during the day). Alternatively, you can send us a Fax. on 051-949-0307; or write to us at PO Box 3, Liverpool, L21 8PY.

If you use comms, you can leave orders on TABBS (addressed to the SYSOP), or contact us on AppleLink (BASUG.1).

If you are experiencing problems with Apple hardware or software Dave Ward and Tony Dart run the Hotlines and will try and help you.

We are very interested in the activities of local user groups. If you have any information which you would like publicised, John Lee would like to hear from you.

We reserve the right to publish, without prejudice, any advice or comments given to members as a result of letters received, in the journals of Apple2000.

A little praise for a few of our authors wouldn't go amiss. Send all comments and contributions via the PO box. We'd be especially interested to receive any suggestions about what you would like to see in **your** magazines and newsletters.

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Birth Announcements

On the 9th of November 1980, at Park Street, St. Albans, a bouncing healthy child was born. Later to become known as Apple2000, the fledgling BASUG came into being—the product of enthusiastic Apple II owner parents.

On the 15th of October 1990, at various places around the world, the Macintosh Classic, Macintosh LC and Macintosh SI were born. Worthy children to succeed its Macintosh and Lisa parents.

A MacUser Welcome

We extend our welcome to all old and new friends meeting us on stand D1 at the MacUser show. This show represents a watershed in the development of the Macintosh and will have repercussions for some time to come. The future should see a growth of owners and as a result in the Macintosh Industry.

We shall help you get the most from your new machine through the many services that we offer.

Come and see us on stand D1.

SEE US AT
The MacUser Show
OLYMPIA, LONDON 7-10 NOVEMBER 1990

Classically Yours

Well done Apple! After years of complaining from both customers and the press that all Apple computers were overpriced, we now have some sensible pricing beginning to appear at last.

It is curious how we have told all along that lower prices were impossible to achieve, and now it seems there is no obstacle to this. Mind you, similar arguments were made about introducing lead-free petrol. It is amazing how 'market forces' can have the desired effect in the end. I suppose it is only coincidence that the IBM PS1 was launched in recent months.

I do not mean to denigrate the achievement of Apple in any way. It has been as much a manufacturing exercise as a marketing one to lower the cost, but could it not have been done sooner? The new machines have been very carefully designed to keep manufacturing costs down to the minimum. A quick glance inside one of the new machines shows you very different animals to the Macs' we know and love. As little as possible has been socketed, all is soldered in and so expansion is therefore not so easy as before. In most cases to add extra memory it means adding 4mb SIMMS.

We shall be bringing you a full report on the three Macintosh newcomers in the December Apple2000 magazine. For now, please refer to the details on the inside back cover for a quick run down on their capabilities, performance and price.

Amazing Prices

It was not unexpected that the prices should turn out to be so low. We had heard rumours for some time that Apple were trying to break the $1000 barrier. I did not really expect it to happen though and was pleasantly surprised when we finally heard the details on the 15th of October.

This major change in marketing policy by Apple has taken many of us by surprise, the dealers probably are the most surprised and confused. After all they have been used to handling small quantities of premium priced computers with large profit margins. Now they will also have to consider large volumes of low-priced computers bearing low profit margins. Can they cope with this new and expanded market?

Can Apple manufacture sufficient of these machines to meet any projected demand, and more importantly can they supply them immediately without a long waiting list. To have to wait for one of these things will probably make a customer choose another computer they can get off the shelf instead. The reputation of the Macintosh goes ahead of itself of course, but in a cut-throat market that is not enough. Many a good computer has not survived because of poor or inefficient marketing or lack of supply.

At the launch of the three machines, Apple showed us a slide showing a warehouse of large white boxes. These they said represented a large quantity of Classic computers already being shipped to customers as they spoke. We understand that they have opened a new factory in Cupertino to deal exclusively in the new machines. This will supply the US market, the rest of the world will be supplied from a factory in Hong Kong. They will need to keep that mountain of boxes high at all times.

Dealer Wins All

Can the dealers handle this new and changed market? As far as we are aware Apple do not intend to change their method of appointing dealers, they will still be few and far between. The Classic ought to be available either mail-order or in any High Street. This is the volume market that they can easily pick up on, but it needs marketing carefully.

The new machines will of course need software. This is something that only a few dealers have specialised in so far. If you buy an Amstrad, you expect to be able to buy some software off the shelf at the same time, or at the nearest large newsagent or specialist shop. How many dealers can offer that kind of service?

Many dealers will also have to put up with the irate customers who have just bought a Mac Plus with external hard disk at a price almost the same as a Classic 2/40. Also for those having just bought an SE 2/20 I have the deepest sympathy, having

recently bought an SE/30 a week before the price tumbled by £400 I only know too well what this means! Apple I understand cleared the warehouse the week before the launch of these machines and sold the lot to an unsuspecting and eager public!

Peripherals and Software

Macintosh customers until now have been of a rather special kind. They have chosen what was an expensive computer for one very simple reason, it was the best and the most powerful computer for their needs. They have been discriminating not only in their choice of computer, but in the way they have used it and expand it.

Cheaper Macintoshes will bring a different kind of customer. A customer who chose a Macintosh rather than an Amstrad or Atari, for many rather different reasons. It may be that they were influenced by the reputation of the Macintosh, it may be they were influenced by the price. Certainly they will not have the kind of loyalty that existing owners have kept against all odds. They will not put up with excuses that a peripheral is not available or wait five months for a CD ROM! They will expect hardware and software off the shelf.

These new owners will also need some kind of initial training and help. The Macintosh is so different from other computers, it can take a great deal of patience to get owners into using the desktop. I have heard of those who just gave up because they could not understand how to use the mouse. I know they manual explains it all, but does it actually explain the mouse must be in contact with the desktop to actually work. I have seen a mouse waved in the air and the user in desperation explaining they can get nothing to happen.

This will be a challenge for both the dealers and Apple2000 to handle these newcomers to our hallowed empire.

Proud New Users

How do you explain to someone who has just paid some £795 for his new Classic Macintosh that a copy of Quark Xpress will cost them as much as the machine they have just bought, or that a copy of a good word-processing package will cost them nearly £100? Software prices at the lower end of the scale will have to drop.

Of course I do not really expect Xpress to become cheaper as the specialist software will still be in low demand, but the more usual packages such as games and utilities will have to drop in price or we will only see an increase in pirating instead.

Many peripherals should also drop in price as time goes on. To pay more than the cost of your computer for a 100mb hard drive will not be acceptable. Hopefully we shall the kind of pricing appear that we see in the IBM world.

Of course other computers will also become cheaper. We have already seen the launch of the IBM PS1, but I was most amused to see that Alan Sugar dropped the prices of all his computers the same week the new Macintoshes were released!

It has been a lean time recently for Alan Sugar, is he going to survive in this new competitive world where real quality in the form of a Macintosh is available at such a low price? The LC colour Macintosh is aimed at a market where he hasreignedsupreme till now.

A new Macintosh Range

Quite deliberately, Apple have limited the power of the new computers. This was inevitable if they are to continue to sell the high end SE/30's and Macintosh II range. As someone who has for long advocated that there is no need of extreme speed and power if all you are doing is word processing or some simple task, I welcome the Classic as the true personal workhorse of the 90's. This computer in its 2/40 version, has adequate performance, reasonable storage and will most importantly run System 7.0. With the new operating system running, and the addition of a Personal LaserWriter SC, you will have a powerful word processing and print system costing under £2000.

Even with the limited performance or expansion of these new machines, they are most importantly Macintoshes through and through. The new customers will be running standard Macintosh applications under the standard desktop. If they want to move to a Macintosh IIfx, they will be immediately at home. This is the real power and strength of the Macintosh system.

One of the most exciting innovations is the introduction of voice input to the Macintosh LC and IIsi. Digitisation of sound input will allow the attachment of sounds to documents. It will not be long before word processors or message systems will speak the message as well as display or print it. I can see a great future for this new development. It is interesting to note that the specification of the Macintosh project back at its inception in 1979, was for sound input to be standard. Only the Apple IIgs has had this capability built in to the motherboard so far.

The one thing noticeably lacking in a Macintosh these days is a full gray scale display on the Classic 9 inch screen. The IBM PS1 has it, probably its best feature, I am sure it would not take much to add such a display to the hardware. The monitor can surely give an analog display, after all, the brightness control in the new Classic is controlled from software!

The Apple II Killer

The Apple II lobby has been extremely vociferous over the last year. With an increasing feeling that we were being isolated and ignored by Apple, pressure was put in many directions to try and clarify our position. We were assured from all at Apple, and this included John Sculley himself, that the Apple II was not dead, and that Apple were committed to supporting the range well into the 90's.

Many of us hoped, this would mean the

introduction of new computers in the IIgs range. The Macintosh LC must be seen as their answer and an indication of how they see the Apple II range in the future.

The Macintosh LC, also known as the Low Cost colour computer or even 'Elsie', is aimed very pointedly at the education market. This computer is a Macintosh, runs Macintosh software, and with the addition of a 12 inch colour monitor and VRAM SIMM, will give a 256 colour display for an educational cost of £1410. I do not know whether schools will fall over themselves to buy it, but it is very competitive at that price with an Amstrad, Archimedes or Nimbus.

Apple have for long tried to woo the education market into buying Macintoshes. The black and white Mac Plus did not attract itself to a market used to colour on their BBC's or Archimedes. The LC is a different proposition all together.

For some three years now Apple have had a computer that had good colour, an Apple desktop environment, a mouse and compatible peripherals. The IIgs was so over priced it never sold in quantity outside of the United States. It is basically the same price the day it was launched while Macintoshes had dropped to more than half their price three years ago.

The LC has an optional extra, a //e on a card! This plugs inside the LC and with a 5.25 drive hooked on to the computer, it will emulate a //e. This we suppose is to woo all those who are using Apple II's in schools to move to this exciting new machine. What of those who have already moved to the IIgs, how are they going to be supported? There is now a wealth of software for the IIgs being used in schools!

I now interpret the smooth talk from Apple over the last year in a different way. The LC is their answer to Apple II support. They intend to kill the 'toy' Apple II off once and for all. How long before we see them do the same to the Macintosh?

Report by Ewen Wannop

ProSel Updates

Ken Dawson, our Beagle Buddy for the UK, has also been appointed the UK ProSel Resource Associate. Ken can now provide updates to owners of original ProSel 8 or ProSel 16 disks.

The cost of this service is either $10 (in US bills) or £7.50. Call Ken for further details of the latest updates (currently we are at ProSel 16 V8.54), or send your original disk (with the money) to:

Ken Dawson
104 Pit Lane
Widnes
Cheshire
WA8 9HW
Tel: 051-424-8974

Ken has asked me to say that there have been no TimeOut updates since June.

If you want to send an SAE to Ken he will send you a directory listing of the current disks so you can check version numbers.

AppleWorks HotLine

John Richey is now running the AppleWorks hotline. If you have aa AppleWorks problem of any kind, ring John on 0252-723993 (voice) or 0252-727078 (voice/modem). Alternatively, you can contact him via Compuserve, ID 10006,1037.

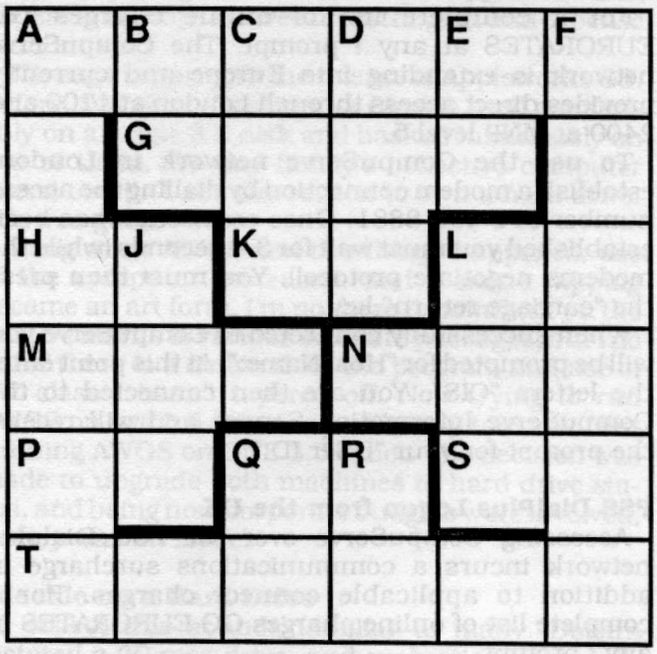
If you wish to write to John directly, mark your letter for his attention and mail to:

John Richey,
c/o Apple2000,
PO Box 3,
Liverpool,
L21 8PY.

Apple-ple Order

Our apologies to all our members who have been worrying over how to solve the puzzle set in the October magazine — one vital clue was omitted, there was an error in the clue for 'N', and the multiplication symbol (*) was printed as '¥'.

We hope that the following will make it easier for you to follow, and we have extended the deadline for receipt of your solutions to **31st December 1990**.



All the letters on the right hand side of the equations below represent different numbers which are all prime.

CLUES ACROSS

A = $(k + g)^3$
G(reversed) = $g^2 + d^2$
H = f * p
K = b + d
L = n * m
M = $p^2 + k^2$
N = $p^2 + i^2$
P = i + d
Q = g
S = a * i
T = $(i + j)^3$

CLUES DOWN

A = $(p + m)^3$
B = k + j
C = $(p + b)^2$
D = $p^2 + c^2$
E = b
F = $(k + h)^3$
J = $(p + i)^2$
L = $i^2 + c^2$
Q = n * k
R = e

CompuServe UK Network

CompuServe has introduced two new network access paths, providing improved functionality and reliability for CompuServe members in the United Kingdom. UK customers living in London now have the convenience of using CompuServe's network. A London node is now available supporting 1200 and 2400 baud at MNP level 5.

UK customers living outside London now can connect through British Telecom's PSS Dialplus network. Access nodes on this network appear in more than 60 UK cities, and all support 300, 1200, and 2400 baud access at MNP level 5. Both network access methods are provided at a rate of $9.50 per hour 24 hours a day, in addition to standard connect charges. GO EUROPHONES for a listing of all numbers and GO EUROLOG for detailed log-on instructions. UK customers accessing via the AT&T Istel network are asked to begin using the PSS Dialplus network. Support for the AT&T Istel network will be discontinued early next year.

Logon/Logoff Instructions

CompuServe UK Direct Connect

Accessing CompuServe over the CompuServe network incurs a communication surcharge in addition to applicable connect charges.

For a complete list of online charges GO EURORATES at any ! prompt. The CompuServe network is extending into Europe and currently provides direct access through London at 1200 and 2400 at MNP level 5.

To use the CompuServe network in London, establish a modem connection by dialling the access number 071 490 8881. Once connection has been established you must wait for 3-4 seconds (while the modems negotiate protocol). You must then press the "carriage return" key.

When successfully connected to CompuServe you will be prompted for "Host Name:". At this point enter the letters "CIS". You are then connected to the CompuServe Information Service and will receive the prompt for your "USer ID:".

PSS DialPlus Logon from the UK

Accessing CompuServe over the PSS Dialplus network incurs a communications surcharge in addition to applicable connect charges. For a complete list of online charges GO EURORATES at any ! prompt.

PSS Dialplus is operated by British Telecom and provides access nodes in over 60 cities throughout the UK. All nodes support 300, 1200, and 2400 baud and MNP level 5.

To use PSS Dialplus, establish a modem connection by dialling the access number nearest you. Once the connection has been established there will be a brief delay before the network responds with the prompt: "To access Dialplus, type your password and press RETURN".

At this point you must enter the letters "UKCNS" followed by a carriage return. The network responds with the message "Calling UKCNS".

When successfully connected to CompuServe you will receive the message "Connected to UKCNS" before being prompted for "Host Name:".

At this point you must enter the letters "CIS". You are then connected to the CompuServe Information Service and receive the familiar prompt User ID:.

Logging off from CompuServe

When you are ready to log off the CompuServe/Forum Service, enter the word BYE or OFF at any ! prompt and disconnect/hang up your communications equipment. If you are at a : prompt, enter EXIT to return to a ! prompt, then enter OFF or BYE. Failure to enter BYE or OFF before disconnection may result in your connection with the Service being maintained and billed to you. After a period of time, normally no longer than 20 minutes, the Service will notice that you have disconnected and will drop your User ID number from the Service and stop your charges.

Connect rates

Connect charges are $12.50 per hour, regardless of the baud rate used for accessing the service. Communication surcharges vary depending upon which network is used to access the service. See Communication Surcharges for more information.

Connect time is billed in one minute increments, (1 minute/session minimum) and can be reviewed by entering GO CHARGES at any ! prompt (updated charges appear within 48 hours).

Communication Surcharges (per hour)

CompuServe UK	$ 9.50/hr
PSS Dialplus	$ 9.50/hr
TelePac	$ 9.50/hr
Datex-P	$14.50/hr
InfoNet Europe	$20.50/hr
Istel	$ 9.50/hr

Would You Believe It?

Jeremy Quinn sent us the extraordinary reply he got when he tried to E-Mail the Apple II developers at Cupertino. Remember he is developing on a IIgs and does not therefore expect to have a Macintosh.

He did not even get a reply to his question amongst all the assorted numbers and things. He later E-Mailed the Mac developers with the same question and got a reply from them without any problem!

Are Apple trying to tell us something for daring to develop on a IIgs?

Date: 26-Sep-90 17:10 EDT
From:
>INTERNET:DTS.ACKNWLG@AppleLink.Apple.COM
Subj: ACK-Post Resource
Sender: DTS.ACKNWLG@AppleLink.Apple.COM
Received: from apple.com by cheops.cis.ohio-state.edu (5.61-kk/5.900920)
id AA16835; Wed, 26 Sep 90 13:55:25 -0400
Received: from [90.1.0.10] by apple.com with SMTP (5.61/25-eef)
id AA20209; Wed, 26 Sep 90 10:55:19 -0700
for COMPUSERVE.COM!100016.560@cis.ohio-

state.edu Received: by goofy.apple.com (5.61/25-eef)
id AA27084; Wed, 26 Sep 90 10:43:27 -0700
for Message-Id:
<8354777@AppleLink.Apple.COM> Subject: ACK-Post Resource To:
100016.560@COMPUSERVE.COM From:
DTS.ACKNWLG@AppleLink.Apple.COM (MAC Dev Tech Sup) Date: 26 Sep 90 15:15 GMT

Dear Developer,
This letter is to acknowledge your inquiry, which we received on 9/23/90 at 10:06 AM. It is the policy of Developer Technical Support to respond to questions in the order in which they are received. As of today, the AVERAGE turnaround time for our EMails is five (5) working days.
In your recent correspondence with Apple Developer Technical Support (DTS), we noticed that you did not use our QStack to submit your question. The QStack is a HyperCard stack designed by DTS that will help you to formulate your development questions in a way that will provide DTS with complete information on your problem and development environment.
Hopefully, this will enable us to resolve your question with greater speed.
Please keep in mind that although using the QStack is not yet mandatory, questions submitted with the QStack will be given higher priority than those submitted otherwise. The QStack is available on the Developer CD Series Volume IV, Discy Business, and also on AppleLink (path: Developer Services:Macintosh Developer Technical Support:QStack).

For future reference, you can find the current EMails turnaround time on the AppleLink via this path:
Developer Services: Macintosh Developer Technical Support: MacDTS Average EMail Turnaround
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Thank you for your patience and cooperation.
Sincerely,
Developer Technical Support Apple Computer, Inc.

The content of your link dated:9/23/90 follows:
TO REPLY, use:
100016.560@CompuServe.COM@INTERNET#
Using the reply function in AppleLink does not work for gatewayed E-mail yet.
From: Jeremy Quinn
<100016.560@CompuServe.COM> Message-Id:
<"900923122344 100016.560 CHC24-2"@CompuServe.COM> To:
<MacDTS@AppleLink.Apple.com>
To: >Internet:MacDTS@AppleLink.Apple.com

Dear Sir/Madam,
I am writing an application for the Apple][gs, that needs data from Macintosh Post Resources. Specifically, I want to extract PostScript fonts from LWFN files.
Could you tell me the format of the PostScript data in the LWFN file, or tell me where I can find that information. I have had a brief look through Inside Mac 1-5 (in the Library) and could'nt find it.
I know you are probably not very interested in Apple][applications, but Please reply to this message. Cheers
-=|=- Jeremy -=|=-

Selecting a IIgs Hard Drive

An Adventure in Buying a Disk

Having just survived the purchase of two SCSI hard drives for two family owned IIgs computers, I really wish someone had told me what I was getting into before I started. This is the story of my quest, I dedicate it to first time hard disk buyers and I hope it saves them the grief and expense I ran into.

The saga began with the release of Appleworks GS. Before that time, Appleworks Classic lived comfortably on a single 3.5 disk and basked luxuriously on two of them. We (my family's collective computer users) couldn't see any reason to own a hard drive. Life was good.

Along came AWGS and two things happened: use of the computer increased, and diskette flipping became an art form. I'm not here to comment on the relative merits of various software packages, but I do know there is a demand for the program and use of AW classic hasn't tapered off. Now trying to run AWGS on two 3.5 drives is just barely tolerable, but running AWGS on ONE 3.5 is not. The decision was made to upgrade both machines to hard drive status, and being non-corporate budgets were involved, money was an issue.

I decide on a Hard Drive

I expect this sounds familiar to many. Dollars dictated a 20 meg drive, and evaluations were collected on such fabled names as Vulcan, Sider, Innerdrive, Relax, and CMS. Specs were compared. Interfaces debated. Storage requirements estimated. Apple Computer's support for the II series was considered. Here are some of the final considerations:

1) Internal was preferred over external by reason of deskspace and ease of use.

2) Twenty megs were too small, given current software and one family member's interest in ultra-res graphics. Forty to 45 megs became the number to consider.

3) Drive speed was entirely secondary to reliability. Repair services are not readily available locally, and speed is not a high priority for our current needs.

4) Apple's lacklustre support (diplomatic or what?) for the II series made the decision to go SCSI and external very easy. Someday we may be updating two computers, but we may want the flexibility of keeping two drives. Okay, throw out decision #1.

Now to find a Drive

Now the search began in earnest. The Compuserve forums were useful, especially the Mac forums... known experts on SCSI drives. SCSI is SCSI, right? The real advantage was in the MagDex data base searches. Now we have real background information to go on.

Checking with local Alberta suppliers I found a 40 to 45 meg drive with Apple SCSI card markets for $850 to $950 dollars. The problem isn't the Canuck Buck as much as a dinosaur of a retail marketing system. So... let's look stateside.

An add in Publish magazine led me to give Ehman a call for prices and specs. It looked alright, too. Seagate components, Apple SCSI specs, affordable and includes cables. Price for 45 meg?... $399 US or $470 CDN. Add $20 shipping and 13.5% government extortion - that give us about $560 landed in my home town each. The day I called Ehman I found they had 60 meg drives on sale for the same price as the 45s. I ordered two. (Sixty meg drives in Canada are over $1000.)

Next challenge was to buy a SCSI card. Which card? Apple of course. I want compatibility... I may want a CD-Rom tomorrow. Speed isn't a criteria... quality is. Best price... my local apple dealer (with dickering) came across. The cards were ordered within half an hour of the drives. You may be interested the drives came across an international boundry, through customs and arrived 6 days before the interface cards. Thanks Apple!

Setting up the Drive

Set up of the drive and interface was easy, both manuals agreed on procedures. The drive was formatted and partitioned with Apples High- Speed utilities. Then I asked it to verify. The program quit counting at 33 bad block errors on the first partition alone. Okay, I'll reformat. Next verify is better, only 9 errors on the first partition. Format again, 23 errors. I hook up the second drive... same results, too many errors. In all I tried Apple's utilities, the Apple Advanced disk utility, Copy II plus, Finder and every format utility on Compuserve. Those that worked left me errors, those that didn't gave bland numeric error messages like #27. Oh good!

For help I turn to Apple Computer, Compuserve, and Ehman. Ehman didn't have any idea what might be wrong, but they were willing to ship two more drives to me immediately. I asked them to wait a few days while I did more checking, they agreed.

Compuserve forum members offered assistance before Apple would return a phone call. My thanks to many, especially Gary Utter, Loren Damewood and Marc Rendino. The concensus was something called Terminator Power. Sounds like a fan club for Schwartznegger movies, doesn't it. So I borrow a Mac Plus and format the drives. After testing, both Ehman drives function perfectly. 100%. Awesome. I carefully take the newly formatted drives home, connect them to the Apple High-Speed SCSI cards and am told the drives are faulty and have 7 million bad blocks.

Terminator power is a 5 volt charge supplied by the SCSI interface to the bus... at least it is in Mac, IBM, and other SCSI interfaces. It was, I'm told, also supplied by the old Apple SCSI card as well. It is NOT supplied by the new Apple High-Speed SCSI card, and when mated to a Mac type hard disk acts "erratically". I can vouch for "erratically". Now that I know what questions to ask, I'm told that about 2/3rds of SCSI drives demand terminator power from the computer and won't work with Apple's card.

RamFAST the saviour

The answer, and you probably saw it in the forum messages already is to go to a RamFAST card from CV Tech. I know of only one supplier of this card in Canada, Dandam Software, and after listening to 20 minutes of horror stories of other people's experiences connecting Mac drives to Apple High-speed cards, they say "Don't believe us... Ask the manufacturer." I talked to Andrew at CV Tech and then ordered two of his cards from Dandam.

With terminal power enabled I find I have the two sweetest little hard drives I've ever used. You've heard the story, now you get my capsule review of the equipment. First let me say that I paid full list for the RamFAST cards and that these are my opinions, not advertising.

The RamFAST SCSI card is about as easy to install as Apple's, but the box it came in isn't near as fancy. It's also nearly twice the price. That's the down side. On the up side, IT WORKS and the Apple card didn't. If that isn't endorsement enough, RamFAST has a better manual and better utilities plus it's own GS/OS drivers. I've seen a lot of comments in the messages section on how fast it is, but I can't fairly comment because I never did get Apple's card to work well enough to compare. I can say it does run a close second to my RamKeeper ROM disk. If you're out there Andrew, consider this an unpaid endorsement!

Now to pick on Ehman. They lived up to their reviews in the magazines. My new drives are nicely designed, solid, and color co-ordinated. While they didn't know much about the IIgs, their service department is co-operative, fast and willing to help where they can. They also extended my 30 day money back guarantee to allow me to order two new interface cards when testing the drives. They also requested any information I discover be passed along to them for their development department, and to help other IIgs owners. Do I think they'll take my suggestions to heart? Yes, I do.

For the economists out there, my Ehman drive cost me $557 CDN, and the RamFAST card cost $258 CDN at my door. That is $815 for a 60 meg drive, compared to $850+ for 45 meg locally. One other price to consider. Being out of country, I doubt that I have any real kind of warranty on this equipment. I think I can live with it, you would have to decide for yourself. I hope this is of value, a layman's comments in layman's terms. **... Doug Walkey 74370,2271**

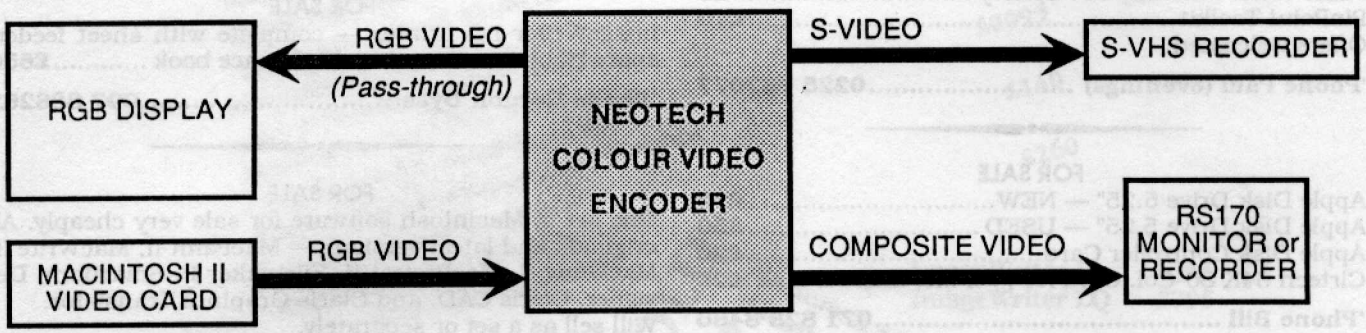
Neotech Colour Video Encoder

Flexible Video output from Apple Macintosh II computers to standard video equipment

DATA SHEET

For users of the Apple Macintosh in a multimedia environment, the Neotech Colour Video Encoder provides all of the necessary sources for output to standard video recorders and monitors. The Neotech Colour Video Encoder offers the ability to attach video equipment that accepts composite, S-Video or RGB signals to a Macintosh II family computer equipped with a video card such as the Apple Macintosh Display Card 8•24 or Radius DirectColor/GX. These cards optionally generate interlaced RGB output, which can be encoded by the Neotech unit to provide the appropriate signals.

The Neotech Colour Video Encoder converts interlaced RGB output from the Macintosh, in NTSC or PAL format, to provide a high quality graphics interface with standard video systems. Up to three video devices can be connected at one time, for simultaneous operation and viewing: the Encoder requires no special configuration. A direct 'pass-through' connector enables any Macintosh display, or a 'multi-sync' monitor, to be attached for general operation in any display mode. The block diagram below shows how typical devices may be connected in an example multimedia system.



- **Accepts interlaced RGB video input according to PAL or NTSC standards (factory option)**
- **Provides three types of interlaced video output signal (RGB as pass-through):**
  - **RGB (separate sync or sync on green)**
  - **S-Video (Y/C for S-VHS systems)**
  - **Composite Video (RS170)**
- **Supports connection of multiple video devices operating concurrently**
- **Pass-through feature allows any display to be used when signal conversion is not required**
- **Operates with Macintosh display cards such as Apple's 8•24 and Radius' DirectColor/GX**
- **Simple installation using standard Apple video cable and industry standard connectors**
- **Transparent operation, requiring no hardware switches or software configuration**
- **Low power consumption, from supplied 9V mains adaptor**
- **Compact design, measuring 150 x 118 x 36 mm (6.1 x 4.6 x 1.4 in) overall.**

All enquires about this product to UK distributor Computers Unlimited (Tel 081-200-8282)

Neotech Limited

Fryern House • 125 Winchester Road • Chandlers Ford • Eastleigh • Hampshire S05 2DR • England

Telephone: +44-703-270200 • fax: +44-703-270166

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4) Omnis 2 Program (database - 5.25" disks) **£50**
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16. 7 Printer Ribbons, Panasonic KX-P110 (R-500) **£7**

All items plus postage

'Phone David 0202 424614

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THE NEW PRICE STRUCTURE

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November 1990

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December 1990

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January 1991

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